

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING  
ROOM 113  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2003  
8:15 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Ray Stevens, Vice Chair  
Larry Hudkins  
Bob Workman  
Deb Schorr

Commissioners Absent: Bernie Heier, Chair

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Bruce Medcalf, County Clerk  
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Vice Chair opened the meeting at 8:17 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEM**

**1 APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES OF THURSDAY,  
OCTOBER 30, 2003**

Stevens requested that Item 6 be corrected to reflect that the Board entered into Executive Session at 9:40 a.m., not 8:40 a.m.

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Workman seconded approval of the Staff Meeting minutes of October 30, 2003, with that correction. Hudkins, Workman and Stevens voted aye. Schorr abstained from voting. Motion carried.

**2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None were stated.

**3 COMMISSIONER MEETING REPORTS**

A. Ecological Advisory Committee - Heier

No report.

B. Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development (LPED) - Heier

No report.

C. Public Building Commission - Hudkins, Workman

Hudkins said the Public Building Commission (PBC) voted to proceed with a Request for Proposals (RFP) for expansion of the Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department Building at 3140 "N" Street. A food service vendor for the County-City Building was also selected.

Hudkins also reported that he attended a meeting called by the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce to discuss the future of the State Fair. He said options include: 1) Raise \$400,000 by the end of the calendar year to address the State Fair's immediate financial difficulties; 2) Cut back on next year's State Fair; and 3) Eliminate the State Fair. Hudkins said Senator Beutler suggested that the County Board implement a half percent room tax to leverage bonds to help finance the State Fair.

Workman suggested combining the State Fair with the County Fair or moving it to the Lancaster Event Center.

**4 PENDING LITIGATION** - Doug Cyr and Kristy Mundt, Deputy County Attorneys

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Workman seconded to enter into Executive Session at 8:30 a.m. for discussion of pending litigation. Workman, Schorr, Stevens and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Workman moved and Hudkins seconded to exit out of Executive Session at 9:11 a.m. Workman, Schorr, Stevens and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

**5 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CONFORMANCE NO. 03012, PERMANENT CONSERVATION EASEMENTS ALONG SALT CREEK, SOUTH OF WILDERNESS PARK TO ONE-HALF MILE SOUTH OF MARTELL ROAD** - Mike DeKalb, Planning Department; Nicole Fleck-Tooze, Special Projects Administrator for Public Works/Utilities; Terry Genrich, Parks & Recreation Natural Resources Manager

Mike DeKalb, Planning Department, gave an overview of City-County Comprehensive Plan Conformance No. 03012, a request by the Directors of Public Works/Utilities and the Parks and Recreation Departments, to fund joint acquisition of permanent conservation easements over approximately 736.9 acres of floodplain area located along

Salt Creek from Wilderness Park to one-half mile south of Martell Road to be in conformance with the 2025 Lincoln City-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan (Exhibit A). He noted that 73.58 acres are in Lancaster County's jurisdiction, 225.27 acres are in Lincoln's jurisdiction and 438.05 acres are in the Village of Roca's jurisdiction. Each jurisdiction must find that there is conformance.

Nicole Fleck-Tooze, Special Projects Administrator for Public Works/Utilities, said acquisition is through two grant programs: 1) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant which was approved for the City (\$1.1 million with a \$367,000 local match split by the City and County); and 2) Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) Grant (\$750,000 available, including matching funds).

Terry Genrich, Parks & Recreation Natural Resources Manager, explained that acquisition through the NET Grant Program is through fee simple or conservation easements. He said a six month extension of the grant has been requested to allow for additional acquisition and to complete the project.

Workman said some property owners reject the idea of conservation easements, believing there is not a sufficient decrease in property taxes to warrant them.

Fleck-Tooze said the Mayor's Floodplain Task Force addressed that point and has recommended further discussion with the County Assessor on how to accurately reflect the difference in property values and taxes.

## **6 CRIME COMMISSION GRANT APPLICATIONS - Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator**

Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator, presented Nebraska Crime Commission Grants 2004-05, Focus: Juvenile Delinquency Prevention (Exhibit B). She said the grants have been approved by the Juvenile Justice Review Committee (JJRC).

**MOTION:** Workman moved and Schorr seconded to approve submission of the Nebraska Crime Commission Grants. Hudkins, Stevens, Schorr and Workman voted aye. Motion carried.

Boesch said the JJRC chose not to submit grant requests from the Lincoln Council on Alcoholism and Drugs (Strengthening Families Project) and the University of Nebraska (Black Male Empowerment Project) but recommended letters of support.

**MOTION:** Schorr moved and Hudkins seconded to authorize letters of support for both projects. Schorr, Workman, Hudkins and Stevens voted aye. Motion carried.

**7 ROAD COSTS; ROAD CONDITIONS; UTILITY LEGISLATION** - Don Thomas, County Engineer; Larry Worrell, County Surveyor

Don Thomas, County Engineer, addressed the proposed "Build Through" Design Standards (guidelines allowing for future acreage development to be converted to an urban-style configuration when they are brought into the City) and said he and Allan Abbott, City Public Works/Utilities Director, have agreed to use concrete. He said details on whether to build city section (curb and gutter) or rural section and what standards to apply to larger acreages are still being worked out.

Thomas expressed concern regarding the Cost of Rural Services Study (an independent analysis of the economic and quality of life impacts of acreages) and questioned the "value of the number" (cost per acreage) and whether sufficient credit was given to traffic influences, other than acreage ownership.

Mike DeKalb, Planning Commission, appeared and said he believes the consultant did a good job within the parameters and budget that was provided.

**8 REPAYMENT AGREEMENT WITH BANNER HOUSE FABRICS** - Troy Gagner, Economic Development Coordinator

Troy Gagner, Economic Development Coordinator, presented a revised amortization schedule for repayment of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funded economic development loan to Banner House Fabrics (Exhibit C).

Hudkins asked Gagner to follow up on the status of settlement discussions with the remaining partners of Kinco Manufacturing of Waverly and to report back to the Board.

**9 VOLUNTARY BENEFITS** - Bill Kostner, City Risk Manager; Don Taute, Personnel Director; Cindy Card and Ken Ostermeier, American Family Life Assurance Company of Columbus (AFLAC)

Don Taute, Personnel Director, said the City's Benefits Committee has explored offering supplemental benefits to employees on a voluntary basis and said the County's bargaining units have indicated that they would like to see this type of program offered to County employees. He said Milliman USA, the insurance consultant, checked with companies that offer these types of benefits and recommends American Family Life Assurance Company of Columbus (AFLAC).

Cindy Card and Ken Ostermeier, AFLAC, gave an overview of the following (Exhibit D): 1) Personal Accident Indemnity Plan; 2) Personal Cancer Indemnity Plan; 3) Personal Recovery Plus; and 4) Personal Disability Income Protector (Short-Term Disability Insurance Policy).

The Board requested a briefing by Milliman USA on the insurance product and a quote to provide assistance with self-insurance.

**10 STORAGE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT VEHICLES AND TRAILERS** - Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director

Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director, said the Lincoln Airport Authority is willing to lease 2,500 square feet of building space to Emergency Management for vehicle and equipment storage. The lease will be on a monthly basis at a rate of \$700 per month, utilities included.

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Workman seconded to authorize Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director, to enter into a monthly lease with the Lincoln Airport Authority, through the Emergency Management Budget, with the understanding that the Board will supplement the budget at the end of the fiscal year if there is a shortfall. Workman, Schorr, Hudkins and Stevens voted aye. Motion carried.

**11 EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE CUSTODY (EPC) SINGLE POINT OF ENTRY** - Dean Settle, Community Mental Health Center Director; Scott Etherton and Travis Parker, Mental Health Program Managers

Dean Settle, Community Mental Health Center Director, presented Proposal for a Single Point of Entry and Tracking Program to Manage EPC's in Lancaster County and Region V (Exhibit E), noting the goal is to reduce the number of bed days at BryanLGH West. He pointed out that the budget did not include funds for this program.

Eagan asked whether there is a tie-in with the Mental Health Jail Diversion Grant and whether those funds could be used to augment the EPC triage program.

Travis Parker, Mental Health Program Manager, said they are separate programs but said the mental health practitioner at the jail may be able to assist with reducing the number of EPC's from the jail.

**MOTION:** Workman moved and Schorr seconded to endorse the concept of a single point of entry and tracking program for Emergency Protective Custody (EPC) patients and to request review by Mike Thew, Chief Deputy County Attorney, and Dave Kroeker, Budget and Fiscal Officer. Workman, Schorr, Hudkins and Stevens voted aye. Motion carried.

## RETURNING TO ITEM 7

Larry Worrell, County Surveyor, said there have been several instances where road or bridge projects were delayed because utility companies had not moved their lines and said legislation to make utility companies more responsive is needed.

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Workman seconded to: 1) Address the issue through the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO); and 2) Direct Gordon Kissel, legislative consultant, to make recommendation and draft legislation to correct the problem. Hudkins, Stevens, Schorr and Workman voted aye. Motion carried.

## 12 ACTION ITEMS

- A. Request from Families First & Foremost (F<sup>3</sup>) for Cost Advance for Travel (\$134 for Kathy Dunning, Family Coordinator, and \$254 for Trish Blakely, Family Coordinator)

Item deferred for one week.

Schorr exited the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

- B. Microcomputer Request, C#2003-392 from Emergency Management for \$4,329.14 for Two (2) Compaq EVO Laptop Computers, One (1) HP 1220c Printer and Software (Laptop Computers from Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) Funds; Printer from Emergency Management Budget)

**MOTION:** Workman moved and Hudkins seconded approval. Workman, Stevens and Hudkins voted aye. Schorr was absent from voting. Motion carried.

- C. Paycheck Insert Safety Bulletin (November 20, 2003)

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Workman seconded approval. Hudkins, Workman and Stevens voted aye. Schorr was absent from voting. Motion carried.

Schorr returned to the meeting at 11:54 a.m.

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- B. Public Information Meeting on West Bypass (November 12, 2003)

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Stevens seconded to send a letter to the Nebraska Department of Roads, with a copy to the City Council, indicating that the County Board is concerned about the possible closure of Old Cheney Road at Highway 77 and would like consideration of alternatives.

Schorr and Workman indicated a preference to delay action until after the meeting.

The maker of the motion and the seconder withdrew their motion.

Hudkins exited the meeting at 11:58 a.m.

### **13 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

A. Integrated Care Coordination Unit (ICCU) Meeting with Ron Ross, Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) Director

A motion that was tabled at the October 30, 2003 Staff Meeting was brought forward.

**MOTION:** Workman moved and Stevens seconded to prepare a letter to be presented at the November 12, 2003 meeting (a meeting called by Ron Ross, Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services Director to set up transition of the Integrated Care Coordination Unit (ICCU) to Region V by September 1, 2004 ) suggesting that transfer of the Integrated Care Coordination Unit (ICCU) be delayed until mid-year 2005.

Brief discussion took place on the reasons for requesting a delay (see Staff Meeting minutes of October 30, 2003).

**FRIENDLY AMENDMENT:** Workman moved and Schorr seconded a friendly amendment to indicate that the County Board would prefer that a decision on transfer of the Integrated Care Coordination Unit (ICCU) be delayed until mid-year 2005, due to the complexities of the transfer and uncertainties regarding the future of the Families First & Foremost (F<sup>3</sup>) Grant Program.

**ROLL CALL ON THE MOTION AS AMENDED:** Schorr, Workman and Stevens voted aye. Hudkins was absent from voting. Motion carried.

B. Public Information Meeting on West Bypass (November 12, 2003)

Item moved forward on the agenda.

C. Request for Funding for Sunken Gardens

Item deferred for one week.

D. Request from Families First & Foremost (F<sup>3</sup>) to Apply for Grant in Conjunction with Region III to Host Conference (Use of Randall Grant Writing)

No action was taken.

E. Intergovernmental Medicaid Transfer

Dave Kroeker, Budget and Fiscal Officer, appeared and said the Intergovernmental Medicaid Transfer Payment from the State will be \$14 million (Lancaster County will receive \$2,500 for the pass through of funds). He said \$11 million is budgeted, based on a previous estimate from the State, and said acceptance of the additional funds would require modification of the budget .

**MOTION:** Workman moved and Schorr seconded to indicate to the State that Lancaster County will accept an Intergovernmental Medicaid Transfer Payment of \$11 million for a payment fee of \$2,500 or an Intergovernmental Medicaid Transfer Payment of \$14 million for a payment fee of \$10,000. Workman, Schorr and Stevens voted aye. Hudkins was absent from voting. Motion carried.

**15 ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Schorr moved and Workman seconded to adjourn the meeting at 12:27 p.m. Schorr, Workman and Stevens voted aye. Hudkins was absent from voting. Motion carried.

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Bruce Medcalf  
Lancaster County Clerk